

Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges & Universities

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

- Prepare students to go out into Kentucky's communities, such as one in four of Kentucky's working teachers identify a Kentucky independent college or university as their primary educational institution.
- Provide professional development activities for public school teachers in a range of content and pedagogy areas; work with school teachers throughout the year to improve teacher preparation and better align curricula.
- Participate in GEAR UP and the federal Trio programs, which are designed to reach out to underserved students in middle and high school.
- Provide information sessions for high school students and families to advise them about financing postsecondary education and help them navigate the transition to college.
- Provide community service activities for Kentucky's students, including tutoring, mentoring, coaching, and other activities that provide school age children and adult learners with additional preparation and encouragement to continue on in school.
- Participate in local or regional P-16 councils, which encourage greater linkages among educational providers, academic alignment among educational levels, and access to education.

2. Are more students enrolling?

- Help students overcome the financial barriers to higher education (this is one of the highest priorities of Kentucky's independent colleges and universities, and it is one of the most effective ways to ensure students will enroll and advance through the system); to keep tuition prices as low as possible; aggressively advocate for increases in federal and state student aid; and give back a significant and increasing percentage of tuition revenue to students to off-set education costs.
- Provide accelerated degrees, night and weekend colleges, and other nontraditional programs to ease the burden on working students and parents.
- Collaborate on marketing efforts like KentuckyMentor.org, and through expanded outreach efforts to middle schools, high schools and adult students.
- Align academic requirements more closely with those of secondary schools and state institutions to ease the transition from high school and among postsecondary institutions.
- Initiate distance learning programs to meet the needs of place- and time-bound students.

3. Are more students advancing through the system?

- Design student-specific programs, including mentoring in and outside the classroom and comprehensive academic advising. The institutions are committed to meeting the unique educational and personal needs of each student, and encouraging program completion in a timely manner.
- Address financial barriers, which often are cited as a key reason students leave programs prematurely (as mentioned above, the independent institutions maintain a strong commitment to keeping college affordable through low tuition, institutionally-funded aid, and federal and state grants, scholarships, and low-interest loans).
- Collaborate on educational partnerships among independent institutions with KCTCS and with the state-funded universities that allow students to transition easily among programs and institutions and complete their desired courses of study.

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?

- Provide a strong liberal arts-based educational experience emphasizing personal growth and responsibility, civic engagement, and leadership.
- Provide a range of internship and career development opportunities in areas such as public policy, business, law, human services, information technology, and journalism.
- Encourage students to take part in foreign study opportunities ranging from short term guided tours, to semester-long programs, to full academic years spent abroad studying and learning other languages and cultures.
- Ensure strong career development programs that prepare students for the job market and workforce; act as clearinghouses for available positions; and match students with employers at job fairs and other activities.
- Prepare students for success in graduate and professional school.
- Provide a strong commitment to community service and volunteerism among students, faculty, and staff.

5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

- Employ over 5,000 people statewide.
- Provide taxpayers with the state's lowest-cost undergraduate four-year programs-receiving less than 2 percent of the overall postsecondary appropriation while educating 23,000 students annually and awarding more than 20 percent of bachelor's degrees.
- Provide education and employment in some of Kentucky's most impoverished areas.
- Provide more than \$80 million each year in self-generated financial aid while maintaining tuition well below the national average for independent institutions.
- Provide a steady stream of well-prepared graduates for the workforce and graduate-level programs.
- Work collaboratively to control costs through joint agreements, streamlined business functions, and shared resources.
- Work to develop innovative programs and partnerships with the state to enhance Kentucky's ability to help meet its ambitious education goals.